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(2)

Monthly Bulletin of Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Statistics
October, 1945

This summary issued by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician covers the first four months' operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, 1944, which came into operation on 1st July, 1945.

The Act provides for the payment of benefit to persons whose normal earnings have been interrupted through unemployment or temporary incapacity. The Act also provides a third class of benefit - designated Special Benefit - which gives a measure of assistance to those persons who, on account of some special circumstance, cannot comply with the statutory requirements relating to unemployment or sickness benefit, and who are prevented from earning a livelihood and are in need.

The rate of benefit per week is 25 shillings for a married person or an unmarried adult, plus 20 shillings for a dependent spouse and 5 shillings if the claimant has the custody, care and control of one or more children under 16 years of age. Thus the maximum benefit is £2.10s. per week. For unmarried juveniles the rate of benefit is 15 shillings if under 18 years and 20 shillings if 18 and under 21 years.

A claimant is allowed a certain income without the rate of benefit being affected. Beyond this allowable amount the rate is reduced by the amount of the excess income.

The numbers of recipients of benefit do not embrace the total unemployment and sickness in the community. Unemployment or sickness of less than seven days duration is not covered due to the provision in the Act of a "waiting period" of this length of time during which no benefit is payable. Permanent incapacity is not included as this is covered by the Invalid and Old Age Pensions Act. The application of the "means test" excludes another group from benefit. Some persons entitled to benefit may not yet be aware of the provisions of the Act.

During the four months, July to October, 1945, 12,340 claims were admitted, comprising 10,770 sickness, 1,511 unemployment and 59 special benefits, whilst 6,365 of these benefits were discontinued (5,623 sickness, 705 unemployment and 7 special), leaving 5,975 persons in receipt of benefit at the end of October, 1945, (5,117 sickness, 806 unemployment and 52 special).

Claims admitted during October, 1945, amounted to 3,516 (2,910 sickness, 592 unemployment and 14 special), whilst 2,356 benefits were discontinued during the same period (2,086 sickness, 267 unemployment and 3 special).

The total number of benefits granted and discontinued during the period 1st July to 27th October, 1945, and beneficiaries remaining on benefit at 27th October, 1945, in each class of benefit is shown in the following table:-

Australia: Claims admitted, etc., from 1st July, 1945 to 27th October, 1945.

Class of Benefit	Claims admitted during period			Exits during period			On benefit at 27th October, 1945		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Unemployment	1,393	118	1,511	631	74	705	762	44	806
Sickness	9,047	1,723	10,770	4,855	798	5,653	4,192	925	5,117
Special	5	54	59	4	3	7	1	51	52
Total	10,445	1,895	12,340	5,490	875	6,365	4,955	1,020	5,975

The following table shows the number of benefits granted and discontinued during the four weeks ended 27th October, 1945:-

Australia: Claims admitted and discontinued during 4 weeks ended 27th October, 1945

Class of Benefit	On benefit at 29th September, 1945			Claims admitted during 4 weeks ended 27th October, 1945.			Exits during 4 weeks ended 27th October, 1945		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Unemployment	449	32	481	561	31	592	248	19	267
Sickness	3,519	774	4,293	2,450	460	2,910	1,777	309	2,086
Special	3	38	41	-	14	14	2	1	3
Total	3,971	844	4,815	3,011	505	3,516	2,027	329	2,356

Note. The number of persons remaining on benefit at 27th October, 1945 is shown in the preceding table.

The following table shows the number of persons in each State in receipt of benefit at 27th October, 1945:-

States: Number of persons on benefit at 27th October, 1945.

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
New South Wales(a)	285	27	1,759	365	-	10	2,044	402	2,446
Victoria	118	4	897	224	-	9	1,015	237	1,252
Queensland	134	9	639	114	-	7	773	130	903
South Australia(b)	109	3	401	103	-	1	510	107	617
Western Australia	85	1	269	64	1	7	355	72	427
Tasmania	31	-	227	55	-	17	258	72	330
Total	762	44	4,192	925	1	51	4,955	1,020	5,975

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.

The number of weeks during which benefit was paid for each of the 6,365 cases of benefit discontinued during the period 1st July, 1945 to 27th October, 1945 is shown in the following table:-

Australia: Duration of Benefits Discontinued, 1st July, 1945 to 27th October, 1945

Duration of Benefit	Unemployment			Sickness			TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
<u>Weeks.</u>									
Less than one	123	19	142	621	70	691	744	89	833
1 and Under 2	161	37	198	1,010	160	1,170	1,172(a)	197	1,369(a)
2 " " 3	102	6	108	819	133	952	921	141(a)	1,062(a)
3 " " 4	65	4	69	653	116	769	718	120	838
4 " " 5	49	2	51	460	99	559	509	101	610
5 " " 9	97	5	102	956	158	1,114	1,055(a)	163	1,218(a)
9 and Over	34	1	35	336	62	398	371(a)	64(a)	435(a)
Total	631	74	705	4,855	798	5,653	5,490(a)	875(a)	6,365(a)

(a) Includes Special Benefits.

Of the 6,365 benefits discontinued during the first four months' operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, 1,653 persons (or 26 per cent) were in receipt of benefit for five weeks and over, 2,263 (or 36 per cent) for four weeks and over, 3,101 (or 49 per cent) for three weeks and over, 4,163 (or 65 per cent) for two weeks and over, 5,532 (or 87 per cent) for one week and over, whilst 833 persons (or 13 per cent) received benefit for less than one week.

The following table shows the principal types of sickness, as stated on medical certificates, etc., of those who were in receipt of Sickness Benefit at 27th October, 1945 and at 29th September, 1945:-

Australia: Nature of Sickness - Persons on benefit at 29th September and 27th October, 1945.

Nature of Sickness	at 29th September, 1945			at 27th October, 1945		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	201	56	257	244	72	316
Cancer and Other Tumours	70	32	102	82	35	117
Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and Vitamin-Deficiency Diseases	270	87	357	331	110	441
Diseases of -						
Blood and Blood-forming organs	27	22	49	35	22	57
Nervous System and Sense Organs	340	127	467	428	142	560
Circulatory System	426	38	464	508	49	557
Respiratory System	400	54	454	470	62	532
Digestive System	709	104	813	832	121	953
Genito-Urinary System	138	55	193	189	60	249
Pregnancy, Childbirth, etc.	-	39	39	-	47	47
Skin and Cellular Tissue	165	18	183	166	27	193
Bones and Organs of Movement	113	23	136	123	27	160
Other Diseases (including Ill-Defined Conditions)	51	29	80	69	34	103
Injuries and Acute Poisoning-						
Fractures	355	30	385	414	41	455
Other Injuries, etc.	207	24	231	238	38	276
Operations (original disability not stated)	40	33	73	47	32	79
Other	7	3	10	16	6	22
Total	3,519	774	4,293	4,192	925	5,117

The two most prevalent infective and parasitic diseases of those on benefit at 27th October, 1945 were tuberculosis (131 persons) and diseases due or attributed to filterable viruses (98 persons) of which influenza was the principal. Rheumatism and rheumatoid arthritis accounted for 361 cases in the category rheumatism, diseases of nutrition and vitamin-deficiency diseases. Mental disorders and deficiency (278 persons) were the most common complaints in diseases of the nervous system. The main groups under diseases of the circulatory system were heart diseases (374 persons), idiopathic high blood pressure (72 persons) and diseases of the veins (62 persons). Bronchitis (152 persons), pneumonia and pleurisy (199 persons) and asthma (56 persons) accounted for most of the respiratory diseases. Diseases of the intestines (appendicitis, hernia etc, 485 persons), diseases of the stomach (ulcers of stomach, duodenum, etc., 330 persons) and diseases of the gall-bladder and bile ducts (68 persons) accounted for most of the diseases of the digestive system. The main diseases of the genito-urinary system were those of the kidneys and ureters (nephritis, Pyelitis, etc., 117 persons).

/Distribution

Distribution, according to main industrial groups of those who were in receipt of unemployment and sickness benefits at 29th September, 1945 and 27th October, 1945 is shown in the following two statements:-

Australia: Industrial Groups - Persons on Unemployment Benefit at 29th September 1945 and 27th October, 1945.

Industrial Group	On benefit at 29th Sept., 1945			On benefit at 27th Oct., 1945		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying	53	1	54	63	1	64
Other Primary Production	6	-	6	9	-	9
Coal Mining	2	-	2	4	-	4
Other Mining and Quarrying	18	-	18	20	-	20
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal working, including shipbuilding	55	4	59	152	14	166
Vehicles, including aircraft	30	-	30	90	2	92
Textiles and articles of dress	7	5	12	10	4	14
Food, drink and tobacco	43	2	45	54	-	54
Furniture, woodwork etc.,	11	-	11	11	-	11
Other Factories, including heat, light and power	27	-	27	42	-	42
Building and Construction	44	-	44	69	-	69
Transport and Communication	34	3	37	55	1	56
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade	42	5	47	56	8	64
Finance and Property	2	-	2	2	-	2
Public Administration and Professional	42	2	44	66	-	66
Personal and Domestic Service	24	9	33	48	11	59
Other	9	1	10	11	3	14
TOTAL:	449	32	481	762	44	806

Australia: Industrial Groups - Persons on Sickness Benefit at 29th September, 1945 and 27th October, 1945.

Industrial Group	On benefit at 29th Sept., 1945			On benefit at 27th Oct., 1945		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying	196	6	202	241	5	246
Other Primary Production	52	-	52	56	-	56
Coal Mining	187	-	187	234	-	234
Other Mining and Quarrying	49	-	49	58	-	58
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal working, including shipbuilding	741	41	782	849	48	897
Vehicles, including aircraft	207	20	227	255	18	273
Textiles and articles of dress	111	171	282	131	187	318
Food, drink and tobacco	265	53	318	299	78	377
Furniture, woodworking etc.,	123	-	123	158	2	160
Other Factories, including heat, light and power	310	60	370	385	74	459
Building and Construction	312	3	315	359	2	361
Transport and Communication	323	23	346	402	26	428
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade	308	134	442	345	154	499
Finance and Property	18	14	32	25	14	39
Public Administration and Professional	197	114	311	243	138	381
Personal and Domestic Service	115	133	248	141	178	319
Other	5	2	7	11	1	12
TOTAL:	5,519	774	4,293	4,192	925	5,117

The number of "persons on benefit" shown in this summary relates to principal beneficiaries who would normally be breadwinners. Dependents of such beneficiaries are not included.